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Every practicing physician should have a copy of the United States Pharmacopeia, 8th Decennial Revision.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The following words are not intended as a criticism of a particular medical journal, but rather as a direct object lesson of the general inconsistency of even those medical publications which are the property of medical men. The *St. Paul Medical Journal* is "Edited and published by the Ramsy County Medical Society." At page 694 of its issue for September will be found a "Notice to advertisers. Only ethical advertisements received." At page 695 is a very good editorial on the subject of "Proprietary remedies and prescription writing," in which the lack of training in materia medica and prescription writing in our medical schools is deplored, and is evidently considered, and justly, as one cause of the increasing use of nostrums with fanciful names, by physicians. Now consider the students "who cannot write prescriptions at all," to use the words of the editorial in question, and who settle in St. Paul, join the Ramsy County Medical Society, receive the *St. Paul Medical Journal* and read this or some similar and equally excellent editorial. On one page is the statement, "only ethical advertisements received"; on the other is an editorial which speaks for the best in medical ethics, highly commends the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the A. M. A., and stamps the high character of the editorial control of the journal in question. Considering these facts, suppose the aforesaid students look

through the advertising pages of this journal in order to learn which "proprieties" are ethical. They will find commended to their attention and recommended by the statement on page 694 that only ethical advertisements are received, *Gray's tonic; antiphlogistine; transodine; "the family laxative, fig syrup"; Kutnow's powder; peptomangan; passiflora; phenol-sodique; bovinine; sal hepatica*; and, last delicious morsel, *uriseptin*. To the best of our knowledge there is not one of these things that conforms to the rules of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry.

During the present month of October, Dr. J. N. McCormack, of Bowling Green, Kentucky, is to visit California and address the physicians of our state on the subject of organization and what it means to the community

and to the physician. During the latter part of September and the early weeks of October he will devote his energies to organization work in Washington and Oregon, reaching Sacramento, where the first meeting is to be held, on the 16th. On the 17th a meeting will be held in San Francisco and on the 18th he will talk to the physicians of Oakland and the Councilor District of which it is the center. Meetings will also be held at San Jose, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Los Angeles, Pasadena and San Diego. No man ever spoke more entirely from the heart on any subject whatever than does Dr. McCormack when he talks on the subject of the welfare of the medical profession, its relations to the citizens in its charge, and the great value to physician and layman resulting from harmony and active organization in the medical profession. Physicians who are squabbling amongst themselves and airing their personal fights for the benefit of the community are far from being a credit to the profession to which they belong. Nor can a community harboring such doctors be at all well served, medically, or have much respect for the profession to which these fighting representatives belong. Fortunately for us, there are very few such communities in our state, and as the months go by the harmony in the ranks of our profession becomes more and more marked. We have taken the first step—we have a fairly good organization throughout the state. Now it remains for us to take the next step—to perfect that organization and to make it more and more useful, not alone to the profession itself, but to the laymen whom we serve. It is largely to help us take this step that Dr. McCormack is coming to visit us. Every physician, and especially every member of every component society, should make it his particular business to attend one or more of the meetings which Dr. McCormack will address, even if at some personal inconvenience. There is no man living in this country who so fully understands what our profession may do, if it will, or how it may better itself and the public generally, than does Dr. McCormack. Under no circumstances fail to hear him and do

everything you can to bring to these meetings physicians who are not now members of our organization.

We all know that the American Medical Association is a body truly representative of the very best in the medical profession of the United States and that its efforts are and have been directed toward improving and helping American physicians. A recent undertaking of the Association was the organization of a Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry with the object of protecting the physician and the patient from some of the all too many frauds foisted upon us by lying and utterly unscrupulous "manufacturers." The committee on chemistry of this council recently reported on certain so-called remedies and this report we had the pleasure of reprinting in the July JOURNAL at page 223. Among other things, "phenalgine," which the "manufacturers" claim to be a definite chemical substance, was shown by analysis to be merely a mixture of acetanilid, sodium bicarbonate and ammonium carbonate. The five gentlemen whose signatures are attached to this report are all of them chemists of national, if not indeed of international, reputation, and one of them is the chemist in charge of the Bureau of Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture of the United States, Dr. H. W. Wiley. The Association is possessed of sufficient of this world's goods to satisfy a judgment and we would expect, if any concern had been injured by the Association's Council, to see such "manufacturer" promptly file a damage suit. But a damage suit brings to light facts—and this is sometimes dangerous—so the "manufacturers" of "phenalgine," this acetanilid mixture, have not brought a suit. They have bought two pages of the *Medical Record*, a journal which has, heretofore, been supposed to be published in the interests of the medical profession, and in these two pages they print what is nothing more nor less than a direct and unqualified insult to every reputable physician and especially to every member of the American Medical Association. It is almost inconceivable that the *Medical Record* could or would permit itself to allow such a gross insult as it issued to the world in its number of September 2d. Are reputable medical men going to permit this sort of thing? Are they going to continue to support a journal which permits "manufacturers" of this class to use its pages for the perpetration of insults directed at the medical profession and its representative body, the A. M. A.? Are we so grovelingly tolerant that we will continue to contribute our good money—in the shape of subscriptions—to the support of a publisher that will permit his advertisers to so outrageously insult us? Think this over carefully and then, if you are a subscriber to the *Medical Record*, consider whether you desire to aid that journal in allowing advertisers to insult you, by continuing your subscription.

The *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal* for September presents some very interesting figures on the relative number of cases and deaths from yellow fever during the present and previous epidemics. From these it appears quite clear that the present epidemic is somewhat under control and the prospect of bettering the season's record before the advent of cold weather appears to be good. The same journal regularly publishes a mortuary report for the city of New Orleans, and that for the current month contains matter of interest. The whole country has been profoundly roused by the yellow fever epidemic and hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent in quarantine and preventive measures. The mortuary report for July shows that 42 whites had died during the month from the prevailing epidemic; but it also shows that 84 persons died from tuberculosis, 53 from diarrhea, dysentery and enteritis, and 46 from heart disease, during the same period. In other words, tuberculosis, claiming more than twice as many victims during the month of July as did yellow fever, excites no comment. Of course this was only the very beginning of the epidemic, and the month of August will show a very much larger number of deaths from yellow fever, yet the figures in the table are striking. Doubtless one would be quite safe in assuming that a much larger number of persons have died, in the city of New Orleans, during the past 50 years, from tuberculosis than from this terrifying epidemic. Tuberculosis is always with us and its fatal results are achieved insidiously; yellow fever is only an occasional visitor and brings death suddenly and, to a degree, mysteriously. Does it not seem time for each commonwealth to wake up and do a little more fighting against tuberculosis?

It is difficult to conceive of a more inconvenient modern "convenience" than the telephone, as the service is at present administered in San Francisco and some other parts of the state. The old and monopolistic company seems to have engaged the services of some mentally astigmatic genius for the purpose of devising means and methods for the aggravation of the telephone subscriber; and of all men, probably the physician suffers most from this cause. Oftentimes not only his own practice and his own business interests suffer, but his patients are put to much annoyance and not a little danger by the carelessness of the telephone operators. Nearly every man who comes to the office of the Society "kicks" about the telephone service. It does not do any particular good to "kick" to the secretary, for he has the same cross to bear. But why not try a sort of joint and combined "kick?" Agree upon a time and then all file complaints with the company; perhaps that would do some good. What do you think of the idea?